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SERIAL NUMBER	FILED DATE	NELSON	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	C	LITIGANT(S)	DOCKET NO.

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HECKMAN, K EXAMINER	
ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
	11

DATE MAILED: 03/11/88

This is a communication from the examiner in charge of your application.

COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS

☒ This application has been examined ☐ Responsive to communication filed on _____ ☐ This action is made final.

A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire 3 (three) month(s), _____ days from the date of this letter.
Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. 35 U.S.C. 133

Part I THE FOLLOWING ATTACHMENT(S) ARE PART OF THIS ACTION:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited by Examiner, PTO-892. | 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice re Patent Drawing, PTO-948. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Art Cited by Applicant, PTO-1449 | 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of informal Patent Application, Form PTO-152 |
| 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Information on How to Effect Drawing Changes, PTO-1474 | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> _____ |

Part II SUMMARY OF ACTION

1. ☒ Claims 1-81 are pending in the application.
Of the above, claims _____ are withdrawn from consideration.
2. ☐ Claims _____ have been cancelled.
3. ☐ Claims _____ are allowed.
4. ☒ Claims 1-28, 30, 36, 40, 44, 53, 54, 56, 58, 61-67 & 70-81 are rejected.
5. ☒ Claims 29, 31-35, 37, 39, 41-43, 45-52, 55, 57, 59, 60, 68 & 69 are objected to.
6. ☐ Claims _____ are subject to restriction or election requirement.
7. ☐ This application has been filed with informal drawings which are acceptable for examination purposes until such time as allowable subject matter is indicated.
8. ☐ Allowable subject matter having been indicated, formal drawings are required in response to this Office action.
9. ☐ The corrected or substitute drawings have been received on _____. These drawings are ☐ acceptable;
☐ not acceptable (see explanation).
10. ☐ The ☐ proposed drawing correction and/or the ☐ proposed additional or substitute sheet(s) of drawings, filed on _____ has (have) been ☐ approved by the examiner. ☐ disapproved by the examiner (see explanation).
11. ☐ The proposed drawing correction, filed _____, has been ☐ approved. ☐ disapproved (see explanation). However, the Patent and Trademark Office no longer makes drawing changes. It is now applicant's responsibility to ensure that the drawings are corrected. Corrections MUST be effected in accordance with the instructions set forth on the attached letter "INFORMATION ON HOW TO EFFECT DRAWING CHANGES", PTO-1474.
12. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of the claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. 119. The certified copy has ☐ been received ☐ not been received
☐ been filed in parent application, serial no. _____; filed on _____.
13. ☐ Since this application appears to be in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under Ex parte Quayle, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.
14. ☐ Other

Art Unit 212

1. Claims 2-25, 30, 36, 38, 39, 44, 53, 54, 61-67 and 70-81 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

In claim 2, lines 24 and 25; the phrase "one of the function terminals" is incorrect. This phrase implies the third means can be connected to either the first or second function terminals when in fact it can only be connected to the second function terminal since the first means is connected to the the first function terminal. In claims 3 and 5, line 5, the phrase "the first reference signal" lacks antecedent basis. In claim 30, line 3, the phrase "the feedback signal" is vague and indefinite. Does this refer to the first feedback signal or the second? In claim 36, line 2, the phrase "components includes" is idiomatic. In claim 38, lines 1 and 2, the phrase "the mode select control signal is a current" is vague and indefinite. In claim 44, line 3, the phrase "the feedback signal" is vague and indefinite. Does it refer to the first feedback signal or the second? In claim 53, lines 1 and 2, the phrase "the mode select control signal is a current" is vague and indefinite. In claims 56 and 70-81, the following phrases lack antecedent basis "the peak current", "the current conducted by the switching transistor" and "the current drawn by the integrated circuit".

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103 which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

Art Unit 212

A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Subject matter developed by another person, which qualifies as prior art only under subsection (f) and (g) of section 102 of this title, shall not preclude patentability under this section where the subject matter and the claimed invention were, at the time the invention was made, owned by the same person or subject to an obligation of assignment to the same person.

Claims 1-6, 26-28, 30, 40, 56, 58 and 70-81 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Banier et al. in view of Easter. The Bahler et al. patent discloses the integrated circuit essentially as claimed except for the feed forward signal being a second feedback signal from the output. The Easter patent discloses a dc-dc converter which has two outputs, one in the flyback mode and one in the feed forward mode. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use a second feedback signal from the output as taught by Easter for the feed forward signal of Bahler et al. since in both the Bahler et al. and Easter, the feed forward signal is used to control the duty cycle of the switching transistor. As for the specific control circuitry of the integrated circuit, the Bahler et al. patent discloses in col. 3, last paragraph that any of a variety of forms known in the prior art may be used.

Art Unit 212

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.


The Rao patent discloses a switched-mode power supply comprising both a flyback and feed forward mode output. The Priegnitz patent discloses a regulated switching mode power supply.

Any inquiry concerning this communication should be directed to Kristine Peckman at telephone number 703-557-7082.

Peckman/vsh KP

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02-18-88


PATRICK R. SALCE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
ART UNIT 212